

Appl. No. : 09/874,185
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows (delete the bracketed portion and insert the underlined portion):

(1) The paragraph from page 10, line 16 to line 24 has been amended as follows:

a²
The memory 140 is exemplified by an EEPROM (i.e., electrically rewritable ROM), which is stored with the identifier assigned to the article with the communication tag 100. This identifier is expressed by four digits [~~of four figures~~], for example. Where the communication tag 100 is unused so that the identifier is not assigned to the article with the communication tag 100, the memory 140 of the communication tag 100 is stored with an initial value (e.g., "0000") of the identifier.

(2) The paragraph from page 13, line 14 to line 20 has been amended as follows:

a³
Moreover, an identifier assigning function of the control unit 270 assigns the value of the counter 280 as the identifier to the article with the communication tag 100, when this communication tag 100 is not used so that the identifier is not assigned to the article. On the other hand, **[A]** a data writing function 275 of the control unit 270 writes the voice data, as recorded by the recording function 273, in the memory 230.

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(3) The paragraph from page 13, line 21 to page 14, line 14 has been amended as follows:

a4
Fig. 3 is a diagram showing one example of the appearance of the information output device 200. This information output device 200 has a casing of a square mesa type, in which the antenna plate 210 is buried substantially in the entire area of the upper face. As shown in Fig. 3, the antenna plate 210 forms a planar surface having a sufficient space so that one or more articles can be placed thereon. On the other hand, the operation unit 240, the voice input unit 250 and the speaker 260 are arranged on the front face, and a power button 290 is arranged on the side face. In Fig. 3, there is shown a CD case 300 which is placed in the communication area. The CD case 300 is equipped with the communication tag 100. With the power switch 290 being ON, as shown in Fig. 3, the communication tag 100 [is] attached to the CD case 300 is arranged in the communication area. Then, the communication tag 100 is fed with the electric power through the antenna plate 210. By this electromotive force, the communication tag 100 transmits the identifier in the memory 140, i.e., the identifier assigned to the CD case 300. On the basis of this identifier, the information output device 200 reads the corresponding voice data from the memory 230 and outputs them in the speaker 260.

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✓ (4) The paragraph from page 21, line 13 to line 21 has been amended as follows:

a⁵ Thus, when the user [the article identifying system 1] arranges the article with the communication tag in the communication area with the information output device 200, the voice specifying that article is outputted from the speaker 260 of the information output device 200. As a result, the user can identify the article. Moreover, the communication tag 100 can have a simplified construction with a small size at a lower cost because what is required is to store the identifier and to transmit/receive the identifier.

✓ (5) The paragraph from page 22, line 3 to line 6 has been amended as follows:

all As the number of articles to be identified, however, it becomes [uneasy] difficult to remember what article the voice data have been recorded for specifying. It is, therefore, preferred that all the voice data recorded can be outputted.

✓ (6) The paragraph from page 27, line 12 to page 28, line 3 has been amended as follows:

a⁷ Here will be another embodiment. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the antenna plate and the speaker or the monitor of the information output device are placed at one portion. However, an information output terminal or one set of the antenna plate, the transceiver and the speaker or the monitor

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Q7
may be placed at a plurality of positions. Fig. 6 is a diagram showing a construction of an information output device provided with a plurality of information output terminals. An information output device 600, as shown in Fig. 6, is constructed to include: a body 601 composed of an antenna plate 610, a transceiver 620, a memory 630, an operation unit 640, a voice input unit 650, a speaker 660, a control unit 670 and a counter 680; and a plurality of information output terminals 680A, 680B and 680C each composed of an antenna plate 682, a transceiver 684 and a speaker 686 in combination. These information output terminals 680 are individually placed on different places in a house and are connected with the body 601 through communication lines 605.

(7) The paragraph from page 29, line 17 to page 30, line 3 has been amended as follows:

Q8
Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing a construction of an article identifying system for outputting voices specifying an article brought out or in. An article identifying system 7, as shown in Fig. 7, is constructed by a plurality of communication tags [780] 780A, 780B and 780C to be individually attached to a plurality of articles, and an information output device 700. In this article identifying system 7, the communication tags [780] 780A-780C are attached to seasoning containers such as a soy pot or a pepper pot, and

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a8
the information output device 700 is placed on a dining table.
Where the user brings the seasoning container out or in, the
information output device 700 outputs a voice for specifying
the seasoning container brought out or in.

✓(8) The paragraph from page 30, line 4 to line 10 has been
amended as follows:

a9
[The] Each of the communication tags [780 are] 780A-780C
is identical to the communication tag 100 of the article
identifying system 1 shown in Fig. 1, [so that their
description will be omitted] and is equipped with an antenna
782, a transceiver 784, a power supply 786, a memory 788, and
a control unit 790 that has a data writing function 792. Here
are assumed that different identifiers are individually
assigned to the articles with the communication tags [780]
780A-780C and are arranged in the communication area around a
(later-described) antenna plate 710.

✓(9) The paragraph from page 30, line 11 to line 15 has been
amended as follows:

a10
The information output device 700 is equipped with an
identifier memory 735, and a difference detecting function 776
in a control unit 770 in addition to the components [of]
corresponding to the information output device 200 shown in
Fig. 1, i.e., an antenna plate 710, a transceiver 720, an
identifier memory 735, an operation unit 740, a voice input

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A10
unit 750, a speaker 760, and a counter 780. Similar to the control unit in the information output device 200 of Fig. 1, the control unit 770 in Fig. 7 includes an information data reading function 771, an information output function 772, a recording function 773, an identifier assigning function 774, and a data writing function 775 in addition to the difference detecting function 776 noted above. Moreover, the memory 230 of Fig. 1 is replaced by a voice data memory 730.

(10) The paragraph from page 30, line 16 to page 30, line 23 has been amended as follows:

A11
[A] The transceiver 720 of the information output device 700 transmits/receives signals with the individual communication tags [780] 780A-780C through the antenna plate 710. While the information output device 700 is ON, the transceiver 720 instructs each communication tag [780] 780A-780C periodically to transmit an identifier. In response to this instruction, each of the communication [tag 780] tags 780A-780C transmits the identifier stored in [a] the memory 788, and the transceiver 720 receives the transmitted identifier.

(11) The paragraph from page 30, line 24 to page 31, line 12 has been amended as follows:

A12
The control unit 770 controls the information output device 700 as a whole with the programs to be executed

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a¹²
thereover. [A] The identifier assigning function 774 of the control unit 770 assigns the intrinsic identifier to the article with unused communication tags. Specifically, the identifier assigning function 774 increments the counted value of the counter 781 by one, every time when the recording is done by the recording function 773, and assigns the incremented counted value as the identifier. When one of the communication tags 780A-780C is placed on the article identifying system 7, the data writing function 775 of the control unit 770 writes the identifier received from each of the communication [tag 780,] tags 780A-780C in the memory 735. Upon the periodic reception of the identifier from each of the communication [tag 780] tags 780A-780C, the difference detecting function 776 detects a difference between the received identifier and the identifier which has been received just before and stored in the identifier memory 735. [Where] When the difference identifier is detected by the difference detecting function 776, [an] the information data reading function 771 reads out the voice data specifying the article, to which the difference identifier is assigned, from the voice data memory 730. [An] The information outputting function 772 outputs the voice data read out.

(12) The paragraph from page 31, line 13 to page 31, line 23 has been amended as follows:

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a13
Fig. 8 is a diagram showing one example of the using mode of the article identifying system 7. When a power switch 790 is turned ON, the information output device 700 receives identifiers periodically from communication tags 780A to 780C which are present in the communication area around the antenna plate 710 and which are attached to a plurality of seasoning containers 800 (e.g., three seasoning containers 800A to 800C shown in Fig. 8). As shown in Fig. 8, the antenna plate 710 forms a planar surface having a sufficient area so that the plurality of articles, in this case, seasoning containers 800A-800C, can be placed thereon. At this time when the user brings any of the seasoning containers 800 out of or into the communication area, a voice specifying that seasoning container 800 brought out or in is outputted from a speaker 760.

(13) The paragraph from page 32, line 5 to page 32, line 17 has been amended as follows:

a14
The transceiver 720 of the information output device 700 transmits an instruction to send out an identifier, periodically to each of the communication [tag 780] tags 780A-780C while the information output device 700 is ON. In response to this instruction, each of the communication [tag 780] tags 780A-780C transmits the identifier stored in the memory 788, and the transceiver 720 receives the transmitted

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A14
identifier. The control unit 770 is always deciding (at Step 901) whether or not the identifier has been received. If this answer is YES, the difference detecting function 776 of the control unit 770 reads (at Step 902) the identifier which has been received just before and stored in the identifier memory 735, and the difference between the detected identifier and the identifier read out at Step 902 is detected (at Step 903).

(14) The paragraph from page 33, line 16 to page 33, line 23 has been amended as follows:

A15
Thus, in the article identifying system 7, the information output device 700 receives the identifier periodically from the communication tags [780] 780A-780C which are attached to the plurality of seasoning containers 800 placed on the antenna plate 710. Where the user brings out or in any of the seasoning containers 800, the voice specifying the seasoning container 800 brought out or in is outputted from the speaker 760. Therefore, the user can recognize what article has been brought out or in.

(15) The paragraph from page 35, line 10 to line 16 has been amended as follows:

A16
According to the invention, as has been described, the information data, as correlated to the article with the communication tag, are outputted so that the user can identify that article. Moreover, what is required for the

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Al communication tag is to store and **[transit]** transmit the identifier, so that the construction can be simplified, reduced in size and lowered in cost.
